Affairs of Tihar Jail

1325. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a prisoner in Tihar Jail was shoved into an oven on 17-7-1991 by the Jail Staff for refusing to cook in the Jail kitchen; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what remedial action Government have taken in this rtgard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b) There was a news item which appeared in the Hindustan Times on 4-8-1991 alleging that a prisoner was pushed into an oven, on July 17, 1991, by the Jail staff, for refusing to be a cook in the jail kitchen. The Jail authorities have reported that the allegations is not correct. According to them, the convict, while putting chapaties into an oven, suddenly started vomiting and his leg fell into the oven thertby sustaining burns. He was provided medical aid taken to the hospital and he has since recovered.

Nasik Central Jail

1326. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that liquor, narcotics and weapons are freely supplied to the inmates in Nasik Central Prison by the Jail and Police Personnel; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b) 'Prisons' being a State subject, it is for the State Governments to deal with any matter relating to the administration of prisons according to their rules, regulations, procedure and provisions of Jail Manuals.

Electronic Telephone Exchanges in Calcutta

1327. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Electronic Telephone Exchanges which have so far been set up in Calcutta and the exchanges which are contemplated to be be converted into electronic exchanges; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to improve the telephone services at Calcutta?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) (i) Twenty-six local electronic telephone exchanges have so far been setup.

(ii) Following electro mechanical exchanges are proposed to be converted into electronic exchanges.

Alipur, Amtala, Andul, Bag Bazar, Baruipur, Bhatoara, Central (Chinsurah, Dum Dum, East Howrah, Rusa, Salkia, Tribeni, Uluberia.

(b) Following steps are being taken to improve the telephone service at Calcutta:

—Replacement of electro-mechnical exchanges.

—Opening of more electronic exchanges.

— Ducting of underground cables.

—Replacement of old telephone instruments in a phased manner.

—Upgradation of Junction network with microwave and optical fibre systems.

1328. *[Transferred to the 10th September,* 1991]